American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Correspondence,
October 25; 1937–March 9, 1938

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Oct 25, 1937.

~~Dearest Mumsie;~~

Here are letters to enclosed when you send the reports to them — The reports ought to be along soon. I've been working hard all day on them & am going down to get them printed — write more tonight.

Oct 26. Up early this a.m. to get your letter written first before the usual day begins. I've been out to the country — everything fine & peaceful. All way more peaceful than it has been in years. See all of the men are under military drill (sort of calisthenics so far) but it keeps everyone under close discipline & military law is being enforced. The slightest misdemeanor has strict punishment — so that means no bandits — I'll be off tomorrow to the country for an indefinite time. So Mumsie not worry at all. We're safe in the country. Even if Tsingtao should not be & it is also safe — I just said that so you'll know how safe villages are. The fighting is up in North, in Shanhi & Hopei & we

it will not likely be touched here at least for a long time. We're taking money + fur skins so even if we were cut off we'd be all right — we won't likely be but this is just to make all test their hearts that we are prepared.
The need of these groups, their welcome, the "yellow streak" on Christs name if we fail them — all call! It is all right to go — I'm going into detail so you'll understand. We were so glad to be out before + it is this phase for me so that is all that one cares about — to be in the center of His will. Then what-ever comes that is all right.
I think all of your letters have come Have a big pile from July 15 — to Sept 2. Just keep on writing. Letters get thru! They have been delayed but they get here.
I'm enclosing letters to enclose with this report letters in this. Be sure Miss Saxton gets a report. Will maybe write some

if more in the country, but if I don't it will do — for Ruth will mail the report to you supposed to be done in a week. She is such a peach & it is a good to me to help.

Earl was here one day on a trip but was unable to get off. He wrote a letter & asked Pete came up to Ruth's & sent his fears — that brief note. Glad Pete's mail from is likely gotten —

I came in from country Sun. Wed had Chinese guests for dinner, Thursday Alfred Emily Russel got off for his furlo + Friday Earl got off — the Andrews was here over a couple of days — so glad waited to be home in case he came. I was glad to see him. He had been to Japan & brought me a lovely scarf. I'm not buying Japanese goods now — but for his sake I couldn't refuse it — I believe the boycott is legitimate & if effectively used could stop Japan. Surely it would be less bloodless to Japan than what she is doing to China.

4 Th Chinese have taken a pass at the north
~~Upss~~ Mun Kuan,, — a mountain Pass + battled up 10,000 Japan
soldiers cutting of the railroad entrance.
Of course one is glad for Chinese victories
but even so my heart just stops at these
awful butcheries — shutter at Japanese
or Chinese. Jap surely has it coming to
her — at the horror she has started. The
paper says they've taken out their anger at
losing that Pass on the civilians near
+ an unmarried corner —
I got sidetracked from Earl's visit + he brought
up his new movie camera + took some pictures
for your sake mummie, of me, of Miss
Law + Stella + Hsiu Tzu — of Ruth + children
of our little garden seat (umbrella in wood)
+ the front door. I'll be home before
you can see them. Once I
said "Hello mummie" I don't know whether
you'll be able to tell it or not.
Then I read this pile of letters to
him + we visited till six. + Ruth's

Dr took Pitt + Earl + I. (Ethel Earl Lutwei went together) to the China restaurant for a big supper. Shen after supper came home + he took them to the pier at 10.— It was nice to see him. He said he had a picture of Aunt Callie that made him homesick the first time since he'd left home.

We went in the little car out to call on Russian families. See since the Bolshevick regime the white Russians have had to have a new return. Many of them are from educated professional classes. China has given them a home. They've had all sorts of sufferings + go thru all kinds of degredation — There are some married to Chinese out at Chan Sha. Some are some there very well off + others desperately poor. We got into two homes that were surely miserable. 3 children in one + father + mother — all dependent only on the proceeds of sale of milk of one goat. We had clothes to give them

This woman said she'd pray — if she didn't she could never get thru. When baby is bigger she walks into town & scrubs for a bit she prays her husband is good to her & tries to give her better to help out, food. The other 29 yrs. old married to 35 yr old chinn — 7 children — She was in bad plight at first & he saved her — but she is a weak character too — her suffering has led her to drinking & we saw her in midst of a drunk! Oh! it was horrible — The whole problem of poverty & sin — oh Jesus Come quickly — Leaving it to man is voluntary choice to accept God & to obey Him this alleviation human ills is so slow & When the knowledge of God will cover the sea. That means that all attendant blessings of gospel will be equally divided — medical care, food, right to live — oh that he soon come!!! Army Human can speak Russian so she is the Key. She can only go on Sunday P.M. We were so grateful to "Hippy" — to go in —

Much love to all there; Ruth & the woman in P.O. who sent many — all the women in church, I can sympathize with them having to wait — Hope she may be able to come soon. Much love —

Irene

Koami, Changchia Wushow.

Dearest Mumie Mine + all. November 3, 1937

While Miss Tam is taking the street meeting tonight I'll visit a little while with you. She has to take a trip home over tomorrow + friday so she can mail this in Koami. She has had a little tumor that has made it hard for her to stand so these days she's been talking to those who have come to our rooms morning + afternoon while I've gone out to the night street crowd. She is better tonite + I'll write to you dear ones.

This has been a most interesting week - It has been nearly 7 years since we first knew Elder (Mrs) Hare. We came then just after the death of Mrs Clang - + when Mr. Clang was paralyzed on the Kiang. There whole side - leg + arm right side + face. We prayed much that Jesus would heal her. Miss Hsu + I went each a.m. bathed her in hot water + rubbed her with alcohol. Day by day saw improvement — until she was able to walk leaning on a cane

to the door the day we left. It was clearly a miracle of God's grace — for many who have been paralyzed have done the same — as man at Tung Chen fought battles of it & had a professional masseuse daily but of no avail. The family were so grateful then — & this time hasn't been able to do enough, just have gone to limit in hospitality & thoughtfulness. We laugh & felt like Joseph & the water from Bethlehem's well brought at the risk of life by one of his guards, that it couldn't be drunk but poured out before the Lord. So daily we just said all of this Kindness isn't for us — Lord it is for you but it comes to us so we keep offering it to Him as her offering to Him. Their Lame has its problems. Before Mr. Chang became a Christian — he took two concubines. Children born of all died but one daughter, Fly got a little boy & raised him for nine years & then he died. The old father, 81 years, just kept at his son

3] to take another coroubine. It was to this law that Miss Hus + I came a 45 li trip in the cold to urge him not to. Then he promised but his father's urging + the old ingrained feeling of utter disaster of having no sons etc + his is very well off.
won + his taken a younger wife + now has a little boy 3 years old — He has been refused communion by church. I can't see much sense of sin in his attitude. To non-Christian thinking he is very right + justified, — + in this region it is common.
Strange sometimes how much like Old Testament the non-Christian codes + customs are. He has gone back spiritually — that is to be expected but the first wife has grown. Thru the leading of her paralysis she has gone a long way. Now she is trying to live out Christ's spirit in a difficult situation which she could not help — with two concubines in the house. However there is that to be said that Mr. Chang is of heart, with heart + had told them what she says is law — "If a thing is round, but she says it is square you have to say it is square" a sort of proverb meaning unitarity is in her hands — there is

4) much of unhappiness sent how we pray that
with her the christian coat in the home may not go.
She's the real force (the main thing fully believing
but there are these areas, is not willing
to apply his mutual belief) He needs your
prayers. The only other christian in this
little village of 40 families is very poor with
5 children. The first few days women +
children 20 - 30 came around + evening
but these last two all have been busy with
the sweet potato harvest. So the big
crowd on the street is fini for these
busy days. How we need that retreat
matter; It has warn out several
springs + we thought we'd need another
this fall. A good clearing, tho, has made
is fairly good but old regardsare
no good on it. Eventually we must
put in another spring. It's a great help
tomorrow for these villages.
It has been a great joy to have these
night meetings - It comes along with the new
freedom in speaking to non-christian
especially women with their very limited background
that really hardest for us foreigners to

5. effectively. I can only be grateful for my years of assimilating in the country & my Chinese home which gives me the closest touch. Eternal it is very hard to know where thy kingdom & will but does this temptation ever come? We missed Mrs Idus very much. She's unable to be here — her mother went & she's needed there at Chanchow church. Ted the first convert & wife. Today we had the joy of praying with a little boy about 9 years old — a widow's son & grandfather — non Christians. He has a road of difficulty ahead — with them after him to worship the ancestors &c. But he wanted to pray & give his sins to Jesus. He has been so different from the first that we felt sure that eventually he would believe. He may waver & go back sometimes but I'm sure in the end he will belong to the Master. Rather makes one tremble for what is ahead but Jesus is ahead too!

One day an old woman sitting here in meeting suddenly became demon possessed

6. She said, "I'm going to die!" — + tallead
off her seat. We got her on the bed - She
was perfectly warm - then in this queer
high falsetto voice, the demon began to
talk thru her as she'd throw herself +
get up + kneel + sing. She the tricks
of Satan — said such things as, I dream
is my home, "I'm going to believe Jesus" (pre
Mrs. Chang, not realizing what it was
said yes do + you'll be all right)
Her daughter in law was frightened - I
never am as good in these things as Miss
Law. She talked straight to Satan "
Jesus is coming to put you in hell!" etc.
The woman talked over on us + once we
thought she might be violent, but she
wasn't. She said a lot of things -
pertaining to the gospel + sang in a way
this woman couldn't herself —
We prayed + sang + after while
the woman sat up all right. We asked

4) whether she knew what she was doing & she said she felt uncomfortable all "muddy-like" but. Just a little affair as that makes one just tremble for what hell's suffering will be.

Hsiu Tzu came today from home. His mother wasn't well. His brother's wife had almost died in childbirth the little boy that — She, mostly some woman who knows a bit helps. no doctors anyways near — so women suffer terribly.

Hsiu Tzu has had a severe testing time. His mother, without his consent, consented to a marriage for him. The girl is a nice Christian girl, an orphan, with 16 acres of land, $300 cash of her own, the family on her side had gotten and old pastor to come to be middleman & contrary to most marriages, they (the Taos) would not have to spend a cent & all of her property she would bring to them. Mrs. Tao & all the rest thought this was fine & promised. Hsiu Tzu was sent

8) sick about it for they all wanted an immediate marriage. He really trying to get out of it but the old pastor sent again saying he had entirely lost face & he couldn't possibly retract. See in old China the parents make the contracts and a filial obedient son of course never would object & Chiese customs give the girl the right to say no but if girl's side propose it, it isn't right for the man's to refuse. Then it is all the worse for his refusal means family disputes, He went home & all of the elders of family called him public ground, gone to school in vain etc etc!! The only thing is that if he marries & has family this now the future for which God has called him is very much a question. But they can't see that — of all the early marriages & men go off it makes his refusal seem impossible. This matter is determined for a wedding in November! So Miss Law is going on home in the morning to try to fix it up so

9/ there won't be enemies + let the old pastor have his face — by agreeing to an engagement with possibility of 6 or 7 years after since she is an orphan but her come to the law Lane + live as much as she wants or let them act as sponsor for her property. If the Master leads for Hsiu Tzu's going to U.S. by next fall then that may be able to solve it. My! what a rather stumbling block! because she is a good Christian & fine girl + with this much property (this is very unusual) but if she will want it will do - but to marry now would surely be a tragedy! Now meeting is over. Mrs. Chang + I concubine came in to chat. (equally queer this many women Lane) Mrs. Chang sends her love + greetings to you. Mrs. Law said to thank you for the Bible. She say it is too lovely to read + keep it well kept in its box!

Ruth will soon be sending you the report I expect. I was to be done this week.

I'll not write more tonight. I'm thinking much of you all of Berrie busy unloading praying much for Warrens + "my big four" prayer is before god daily. I can think of the wonderful experiences it will be for each of the four. Each of the four will have something to add to the others.

Bye bye dear ones. I love you all. It doesn't seem you are far away at all. In Him we are truly close together.

Much love →

Irene

November 24, 1937
PRESBYTERIAN MISSION
TSINGTAO, CHINA

愛蓮

Dearest Mumsie-all:

Well, am back home + I see there is a boat at 12 today so I'll just rush off a note in hopes it will get on it all right — so you'll have news of me.

I wrote last from Hsing Hsia Chuang I think We went from there on to Tang Ling where we were once 7 or more years ago + there had — it been many — there in the mean time. I have was a new Christian a Mr. Hsu, besides the three other families — but in their families only the men believe so it is a little scattered group there. What a welcome, Ernest had just built a new fireroom home + we lived in it. They did all they could to make it comfy for us. The first evening — we got there about 3 — + 5 it is dark — such a mob! We put the victrola on a table out on the street, the lantern on a peg in the wall + began. There must have been 300-400 hundred folks in that crowd. Miss Taylor had a bad cold + couldn't be heard so it was just up to me — The Lord just never fails on it their eagerness + attention was great — So many older men came — it all shows a new realization of futility of life — all of this war + suffering coming so near their doors - with military training + men being called out etc. There was a big crowd all next day in the house women + how the children sang — many

the first song of their lives & they seemed so happy - as if they'd just found a new treasure - & the next night the same big crowd on the street - getting cold so we tried the shelter of the big wall gate that is roofed over & has thick walls [x] put tables in there & just was having a good time with an ideal sounding board in the gate shelter & warm, but two late travelers touched us out tired - so we had to leave. The third nite went to another street & kept on thru a slow drizzly - then one & all it turned cold bitter north wind & rain - we later found that it was just as the Japanese were trying to cross the Yellow River & the wind, rain, cold & clouds stopped a big offensive for those few days. We had a rest on the cold days - from crowds but 3 put in long hours with Hsiu Tzu or English. The last nite - 19th - the Christians had come - there had come a letter giving telegram message from Jungtao for me to return at once. We didn't want to as there was such a splendid beginning there & recent prospects of many more believers. That nite the Holy Spirit did a great work in those weak believers hearts - merely believing with mind but no experience of sin or its conviction or repentance or leaving off sin - We hated to go too for their sakes. That nite we prayed we each one as he poured out the sins in confession & repentance Then next day or two after we waded mud to

[Hua Li Chuang]

Dec. 2, 1937

Dearest Mater + all:

How is a chance to send it a letter to Linfen so I'll hurry to write now while there is a chance. It will not make a week since your last letter + I'll surely be glad to get mail to you.

We hurried to get away from Linfen as there was more tension + no a few rumors - + we didn't want to be caught in there + held up unable to get off to the country. You were a bit uncertain as to when you decided to come on Sat. + D. later but Sat. there was no train so we had waited till Monday. Sun went out to Chan Shan + enjoyed it. Mrs Hsu had been there for the month + done well - I was at Van's for dinner + in P.M. guests there I went to see a girl in the hospital. Monday evening we went into Ruth's for ice cream + cake as a send off. Theirs is such a lovely family! The girls are just dears + I do so enjoy them. Ruth's been nice to us! Monday we

expected the 2nd train, at 6:30 + planned to go by
at least five! I went to the bank in a.m. +
miss Jan to get last things. Then I + W went to
call on Mr. Davies - as he left there - the Lord
spoke to him clearly - - - go to the P.P. station
he did + there there was a train scheduled for
1-3+5 P.M. We rushed back, we hurried thru
dinner + they off with the baggage, while I
closed up the house + drained the water
pipes. We had two big bed rolls, two big
baskets, a suit case + the organ. It was
a big question to everyone about our bag-
gage how we'd get it on. We'd planned that
if we could it take it we'd go + send in
a cart for it but we'd try it. I got there
at 2:30 but the 1 train had it stuff people
on, no load'd it gone - as it was hastily put on -
I got on - miss Jan has saved seats - near the
end of a car + next to that one was a freight car
the back platform load nothing much on it. By tips
we got the red caps to carry on the things to
the platform + we got all on. It was wonderful
the they said that other train would leave
first + that one at five - but we were

(3) not going to mow if we had to wait all night. We read English + the time went very quickly; at 8:30 we got off at Lautoka. Were glad for our lantern + found an inn with two empty rooms with beds in an inner courtyard. That was private + quiet + we had supper + a good rest. The next morning the cold bitter winds of a few days before had passed + we had a lovely mild day to travel + to fix up the next courtyard rooms. My! How wonderful the Master's love! It seemed to just shower us with His goodness. We were so able to enjoy His blessings but go little able to share His sufferings! The food Mrs. Fan's mother, who has been quite sick for a month, made better than she is without yet she has been so grateful for your gift of the Bible + asked me to thank you again. She has trouble with one eye - She can't see from it at all. It seems to be covered over but it may recover. We also walked + talked + prayed + sang to get in to Jesus. She should go into a doctor to see about it

They got a neighbor to repair the K's & I saw how it was made — very interesting to see. We've put up a stove & bought coal on the way here — so we're comfy & headquarters. Today they built us a corn talk screen to keep the wind out as the door opens to the north. We can go from here to most of the places we need to in a days time. Otherwise the station folks rather hesitated about my going away from Lingtao — not that there is danger — only it is easy to reach here & won't be left comfortable if we can't get back to Lingtao. The point is if there were trouble in Lingtao they'd not be able to let me know — This way if there is trouble here & there is more apt to be there than here they will not mind for me. We're safe & well & busy here & carrying on our work as usual.

Miss Chu didn't come this time with her family went to Lao mts — & she with her mother

Rest your heart — we are in this case + if anything does happen to us — it was my free choice to come + I take full responsibility + do not want any one troubled in any way — but we are in this case + it is enough!!!

I'm going to have some of your work letters that I've carried around for so long, printed. Maybe you can read on furlough in the spring. By the by I must tell you last summer when I was at Wei Hsien I had a territorial day! That was nice!

I'm not doing anything for anyone this Christmas. The summer was so upset that it was always a question about things then I've been away + with such awful suffering I just can't feel right about spending on myself + the 150,000 destitute in Shanghai alone — I'm sewing + pin-money early — but the rest will just have to go into mails are going all right + I suppose things would have gotten thru —

Margaret's matter went home on the U.S. Clermont to Japan + there caught a transport boat. Margaret is in Tokio.

Ps. Thank you so for all of your love + kindness to plan for the meat grinder + all. If you haven't sent them wait a little while, maybe Helen will be coming but it may be they will be keeping her longer. I've no idea really, but after students are in language school

Now, I must close for now — I've had a couple of hours of English with Hsiu Zu Paul/He will go 5 li on his wheel to take this letter to Mr. Chi. I've come to his home to make some plans for the rabbits — We'll see it's time now to get them given out to help sisters. I should Mr. Chi home to learn Lingtao + I'm not there no one could care for them!

Bye dear ones, lots lots of love to you — I love you all dearly + hope that you are not resting your heart about me. We're well + so glad to be in the country + able to be carrying on for our loving Master + Christ —

Love — Will write again

Irene

Hua Li Chuang
December 7, 1937

Dearest mummie Mine + all!

I'll have a chance to send a letter this P.M. so I'll write before we leave tomorrow for Mao Chia Ying + other villages. We've been here just a week today + would have gone on sooner but there has been terribly cold days + it wasn't easy to send a messenger even let alone travel. Miss Law has waited to be here with two mates a few days. She is very much better + hopes that her eye will soon be well! I've been having English class for Hsiu Tzu + another of the nephews has come for most. We will put in good long hours + made some progress. Surely seem strange for me to be teaching English — when I've just thought them in China these years — but all things for all people — If it's for His glory the teach English — it's all the same! When we go to other places he gets a snatch of time here + there but we'll put in good time these few days.

Law predicted a cold winter — maybe it is more sentiment — the Japanese aren't such good fighters in cold weather + I predict a cold winter to slow up things. Anyway I've been a good prophet so far, while we were at Tang Ling, a terribly cold wind + rain kept the Chinese from crossing the yellow river to Tsinan. Then the Chinese flew out the dikes

If the yellow river + let the water out to the north + it has flooded a large area to the north of Tsinan to Pingyuan. That gives us more rest for time - but it isn't good for Nanking! Oh it is a heart-rending mess!

Yes, have whatever anyone wants to read me let them read it as such. I have all of the things I need + with all of the needs before us - Thai Tzi's school etc - just put all into money - + use it as the needs - So glad you had visits with Bud + Bessie, Nice Roberts stopped Dan did he get in at Goldendale - Is it still the same that Lea had? I'm glad he has it. All of your letters have come I think - no matter what the post office says. I'm going thru a big pile of them. So glad you enjoy mis tais gift - the bunch of grapes + the alexandrite. Remember you aren't to give them away this time! Slept for you to enjoy!

Nice you had a visit with John Wortman. I remember him. Wasn't he + Emmet good pals for a while or was it the Lea's - I wonder if there is another news on what I call my "Big Four" prayer. Because it concerns the four - twins, Thai Tzi, + Snook - I have thought it our first choice isn't it? Whether Mrs. Warner could take a hand there + be mother to them. She mentioned in one letter that it isn't good for her to live alone. Of course a family of 4 noisy boys might be a dose all at once. But the expense could be shared in a way to make it cost her no more + save them a lot. I don't remember if I mentioned it

to her yet as I'm waiting to see what news comes from you. See what you all think of that — What other colleges do you think are good? Eleanor Stiele's husband is a professor at Beloit College, Beloit, Wis — what do you know of it?

I told Earl to mail Mrs. Chiang's book to you. He had put it in the suitcase of my valuables which he has with him on the boat. He will take it home with him maybe if not summer it still rests with. Anyway I'm not worrying about it being safe now. He was going to leave it in the Navy locker in Manila — but I felt better about his being suddenly changed & not being able to get to it. Thank you for calling her letter. It was so nice to get it. Your Presbyterial was nice! I have all that I need. Don't worry about that. If you're wanting to send to the 150,000 refugees in Shanghai — Miss Margaret A. Frame of our Board — address in Prayer book — would be able to get it into proper hands — many likely most easily handled. I'm sending her a check — from here. —

Mrs. Tan & one of the family who always brings me carrots asked to be remembered to you.

Must close — boy is here to take letter — much love Irene

Maochia Ling -
Jan 18, 1937

Dearest Mummie + all:

Here is a chance to send a letter to the post office this P. M, so I'll hurry this up, so you'll have a note anyway - I want you to have as many letters as I can so you'll not worry!

We've had a fine week here - three meetings a day -- Bible classes in daytime + for non-christians at night - while I had an English Bible class here for Miss Tyo + two high school students in whose home we are living -- Last Sat. + Sun. a big group of christians came from 15 li away for church + we had a big reunion! We were planning to go last wednesday to their village for a week but on Monday Miss Tao got a very high fever + a bad throat - she just burned up for two days + then - I first carried on the three days but then for the end of the week we decided not to have meetings the rest of the week -- but only at night! I had no termometer

so I didn't know how high the fever + ~~distant~~ I saw in her throat — I was a bit startled by what I feared might be diptheria — but we couldn't decide to do anything but wait + see. ~~out~~ in cold
To go would have been bad — Singlão only 1 hr. — So just prayed + waited. That night her fever fell + her throat has cleared up very much — so we're happy for that! We're still here now — maybe by Monday she will be able to travel + maybe not — She's not fully recovered from the typhoid effect I guess — so gets cold easily! We're most grateful for this recovery!!
These days have been exceptionally warm here until last night — when it rained + blew — turned to snow + today a cold wind is twirling it colder + colder! We're a nice warm long + warm room + are very comfy!
These few days until no day services (they'd had a week by some others before we came + then we a week, so we thought not to tire them all out. Nites all but last night Loud had a big group of school children + non-christians. We're so grateful for it. Several times we've said

this year is a children's year — so many children at each place really listening — maybe we are giving more attention to them. I have had long hours with Howard + the two boys, on English. I have pattern drawn an important section of grammar which I hope will be a good foundation for him.

The more I know him + then think of needs of young people here the more important does seem his preparation. He's such a good lad — being true first in more than one way + strength of character is the result. He is a good basket ball player too; I don't get the impression he's sissy — I was thinking Margie will be ready for college the year I'm home won't she? If "the Big Four" proves out there might be a possibility of her being able to go too — tho I expect she'd not get so far away from home — maybe. Mother, who knows, will it turn out that way to help keep

cause for these youngsters at college the years I'm on furlo? It would be a big change for sure! It will in this plan + keeping! It makes furlo years seem nearer to be thinking of it in this way! I can't but still ask for this Big Four what it would mean to the twins to have a close friend of another nation + what his influence on them would be — + at times on Jim + the kids + all —

Must close now to get ready - I have a class this P.M - service tonight + three tomorrow! Boy — these all are 1½ to 2 hr ones too!! Thankful they've not been to church with Jess!! It's great being here + seeing these each one with his problems + faults + lovable traits + to see what they've come from - + since I came that Syp app — staying over night - being the circus for us all town — I saw marvelously He leads. There is another village opened, - direct fruit from here in last year — So His Kingdom is coming — When - when Lord He come Back — Lots of love to all Report of fall of Nanking is sickening!

Love —

Mao Chia Ling
Dec. 30, 1937

Dearest Mummie Mine;
One of the Christians from near a Post office where letters can go more quickly is here to call this a.m. He can take a letter with him & you will have some chance of getting it sooner.
I've been praying very much these days for you that you be kept in perfect peace. I expect Tsingtao may have been in the papers & it may have caused you alarm. We've been out for several weeks now & I'm not very sure myself just what has happened there but I guess the Japanese property has been sequestrated & the banks shown up — We've had a lot of rumors but anyway you likely know more than I — but we are safe & well & expect to stay in the country & not return. We're all right & I feel it a high privilege to be able to be here with the Christians to share their fine times with them — It is all I can do — but I want to

to do what I can for China + for Stins —
We had a great Christmas with them
here + must 15 li to go with another
group — Miss Law has had smallpox,
very lightly but that seems to be it!
What else she may have next!! Who
knows —
We're all well + send you love
to you + each one of you —
I love you all — my dears —
Irene —

Jan P. Law
January 5, 1935.

Dearest Mother,

Suddenly there is a chance to send a letter all of the way in to Tsingtao, so I'll hurry a note at least. I don't time to write much for there around came to the north building of this country yard + I should be there to help — We're awfully grateful for sunny days these few days for it is cold at best + little inducement physically for non-christians to leave their warm kangs for a cold room. But we're grateful that they come — a host of children + a good many older people —

I hope you've been just as sure at least about us + not worried at all. I trust somehow he'll just make

to know that I'm not in Irington + that all there are safe too. So we hear anyway! This boy wants to go in to find some work - so will come this P.M. for letters in order to get a good early start in. He will bring out the rest of my Christmas mail + some soap + will wait + take my letters in.

I've read some newspapers just now + see some of the news you have been having. I only pray that you all are in perfect peace + rest of heart —

Lots of love —

Sorry letters are so skeletty — I must write each day — days are so full tho — then I get a chance to write it is in a hurry to get off — Lots lots of love, Irene

Feb 3, 1938

Dearest Mummie Mine;

A note to add to upon letter - that I wrote & took to P.O. & was brought back as there is no way to get it direct to Swinglass.

Miss Nelly Eachus
&
Miss Emma L Weber
} address to
15 Milton Street
Maplewood, N.J.

It must be changed or something anyway so asked that that address be used.

I wrote your letter Sun & sent it to P.O. but yesterday it was still there so we got it back & I'll tack a note to put in it of the latest news. Miss Tait's brother who is in the P.O. came home Sun eve & what a pack of mail five letters from upon Mummie dear & many others. I'll not wait to answer them now but tell upon the latest news of Wheaton & Paul & etc which is so close to us.

I had written a letter of inquiry to Wheaton — sort of a feeler, as to his next step — in this mail was the President's answer — most cordial & advising us to apply for reduction in tuition and assuring us that all would be done possible for him. That seemed clearly an indication of the next step — On the blanks it said to send $25

2] spread deposit — At first I thought — impossible until I counted up the money gifts in that + the previous mail — must practically for it —
$5 Newark S.S. a new gift. They'd never sent before
$1 Carrie W. " "
2. Ilke — asked Law to send some title
5 — Yours married mine
1 — Mrs Eaches + Emma Weber
1 — Mrs. Warner
5 — Seaneck —, after years they've sent $2.50 —
It was as if a pledge of further provisions,
Now I have written very frankly to President
+ discussed the difficulties of adjustment to a
new civilization + how I have hoped for the twins
to be able to befriend him in this way etc +
asked at the last whether they might not be
admitted even out of order for his sake. I enclosed
a stamp (which Helen McKee had accidentally dropped
in her Christmas card) asking, if possible, for him
please to write them. I feel quite sure that
they'll be having a chance. Then I wrote Mrs.
Warner — she'd said in this letter that she was so
tired of living alone + must make other plans
etc — so I asked her to pray over it + suggested
the possibility of her making a home in Wheaton
+ taking Ilse as her son etc. Then I said if
rent were much more if she'd an extra room the twins
might help out by taking a room + that they'd
likely have to work for board anyway so —
well that would be ideal for Mrs. W. + twins
+ Ilse. When I had it all done, I had

3] the most definite assurance of "finished"
It will work out that way! Strange! but
I still have it. When Hsiu Tzu came in I told
him my assurance + he said this afternoon
"I've felt likely it will just be that way" but
why I don't know — Today mine filled in
all of the blanks + tomorrow he goes in
for physical exam + to mail all of these
+ get actual record of credits —
That is that — that is as far as it has
gone. Mr Tang, Mrs Tai, her brother, Hsiu
Tzu, + I all discussed everything + together
committed all to God to work out His will -
Now you folks pray too! Praise Him
for a loving Powerful Living God!
We're to see many miracles yet I believe!
I'm enclosing the employment bulletin for
fear you've not had it — Were they
twins applications filled out + then answered
no place or was that the answer + no blanks
sent to them? just keep quiet about this above till we see
Let's work it out!
We leave after Sunday for Huang Wen
place
a very near here —

More later — Love to all

Irene —

Hsu Le Chuang,
February 7, 1938

Dearest mumsie + all:

Day after tomorrow we're off again — tomorrow we must get ready so I'll just write you this P.M. a while — afterward I won't have time. I'll not have time to write from Huang Wu where we are going. It is just 3 li away so if we need to we can easily come back here, so just can just think of us as here!

Isabel Tzu has been gone since Thurs. + I've a big rest was getting a bit of a cold so I've nursed it a bit + had a rest getting to bed early + getting generally rested up to go on! Mended stockings + patched my old cowboy fur garment — it is quite passé but by padding cotton into the holes + mending it — it will do. I hope to manage with all of my present country things now till furlough + not buy anything more. I'll have plenty!!

So glad you saw Anita — She "shood" hardly wait after she left us to get home. She got to Shanghai just as they were sending everyone out + on to Manila she was pushed — Their school likely isn't open so she can be all ready to return when things all quiet.

2] Jim Helen McClain has a chord It reminded me of my thine — my! I wonder how I had the nerve — I'd do it again tho, It will be fine for her!

What joy you had fixing the early-Feby Thanksgiving dinner Part of the weariness was the strain of not having done it right along - you're not accustomed to doing for so many; How nice the youngsters to play for you to sing + all. They'll be experts - by time I get home!

Yes, dear we'll have lots of family dinners when I'm home - it will be great fun; I hope you all may love for Him for it becomes a bond of me so you'll get to know him + him all of my dear ones!, No mumsie mine, I do not need the check from the Board; if I ever do I'll tell you - but your heart but you tell me if you love me? - Is that me? - shall I love them as I do more?

Yes, that Board Bill was fun! Dad was so completely - stymied wasn't he?! Yes, the old retreats is getting old but I'll have another spring put in + it will do. Didn't bring it this time. Too many

Yes, his marriage is still uncertain, Her family talked it off which was all right - that wouldn't force him to go ahead with it for the family sake Then she wrote (she was away at the time) saying that she had it wanted to be married right away, Then I'm wrote her that he'd not be engaged nor

[illegible] married but if she wanted to wait, on his return from reload then he would marry her. She's been away & letters all interrupted so we don't know whether she got them or not — Last report is that her family want her to marry someone else. That is all right, it will work out eventually as God wills it — Her coming to U.S. would be a great impossibility, I fear.

Sorry about the strike — yes hope Governor Martin may be able to do something about the strike.

Mr. Dow said in his last letter from station that American consul, Mr. Allison, had been slapped by a Japanese sentry in Nanking. Wonder what the result of that will be! I hope you'll get a roomer — it's swell to have someone there. I trust the reports have reached you by now, — tied up in Shanghai maybe. Your Mystery Sister, you know now. How matters now re: for this year too.

I am not sure about Purdy plans — other than in routine I should speak a lot. That may be a question. However, I expect I should spend a good deal of time going over Oregon & all the places, now such a large area is included, Enterprise, Grande Ronde Co, Baker Co. & S.W.O. We have the privilege of study — I mean we can ask for a study allowance of tuition — but it isn't required as the first Purdy's was. I haven't decided yet — Station can ask for it if they want one to study.

4] Yes, I hope to rest some - but might try to study ½ year - I suppose I ought to be terribly ambitious + try to get a degree or something but somehow I don't seem to [illegible]!

Mattie miss you shouldn't send me money dear! That is for your needs! Thank you - you've already had my letter telling how I used it. I'm sure you're glad to have used for His glory!

If Cake went to Carl that is fine He can enjoy it. I'll remember things when comes back. if there is any new of it. Thanks so much! Bless your dear heart, not willing to let me go without a cake! Honey, it would have been quite all right! I laughed at the boys girls' - Please write Carrie Waterbury for me - no I should write it + color it. for you to mail. add it I'd let it! Wonder whether Raleigh + Mary have - give up all thought of foreign field?

How grateful I am for all all who have prayed for me. - Surely those prayers have been graciously answered!!

That was nice of Margaret to write you'. My a great granddaughter! Mumie that is getting up in the ranks! Maybe my next visit will have the report.

Mrs. Dawkins is being operated - Kidney removed

2

write when she is well enough. They plan to leave early for furloughs. I'm promised to go in to see Ellen if possible. So far no trains running & it would be terribly cold trip just now. It hits us couples of months I imagine. Hope she'll be able to go & maybe a month. They have surely been nice to me! I wrote Miss Sexton - mailed last mail, also to Frank & Edith. I'll write Roseburg when I have time but it just never seems to get to me! Hope Tzu is learning it & doing quite well!

I didn't get the graduating pictures from Eula of the twins, I'd like them if possible. Mark floods, my little world is in a mess!

There is more news - some - but I'll not write of it now - I'll try to be sure about censors first.

Yesterday, a big church full, both Sunday-N & P.M. Had such fun with the little girls in the family. Almost like Longfellows "Children's Hour" - There are six of them - early every afternoon they wait around outside of the door or over in East courtyard till we let them in & then sit about dusk in they come to play the organ & sing. They're sing for church every Sunday & got the half-grown boys one day, & young women one day. They're all enjoyed the organ.

[6] We had New Year wishes Duratts. Last monday
a.m. we got up early to be up when soldiers came.
All of the children of family + young folks who are
of gruation hour- came to eat. We had a big
basket of roasted peanuts + gave each one a
packet full — The children in this town family
were given money 1 to each — it is hard on the
packet boats to have New Year Eve, they would let let
me put my bit in the family larder this time so I
gave 5 to Twenty-Two to distribute, take care of
that item, they've done much for me that money
can't repay but I try not to let down on my
end of that,
I'll write later — late — my glasses aren't so
good now - but I think will do until I go home —
Yours - "Till I go home" seems to creep into letters after
now eh?

Hsuo Li Chuang
Feb. 21, 1938

Dearest Mummie Mine;

Just a note this Sun. P.M. a boy is going in to Tsingtao in the morning & he will mail it. We've just back from a great week at Huang Wen - but didn't go on to other places as both of us had had colds - mine in my throat & so I'm writing today in bed to keep warm & try to get over it quickly. My first cold this year & it don't appear to have acheing - just throat & flem & coughing. I have some other letters to write so I'll only let you have a note to cut your heart. The cake arrived! Hsiao Tzu brought it out last week & it was fine! I am so happy for yours one would be lost. It certainly is pretty & the it was the middle of February it would be dry! D.T. cake surely has a wonderful flavor. The chocolate in it just makes it! We cut it very thin & it was so pretty held up to the light - red & green & yellow. Mrs Law said it was like one of the stained windows in the German church in Tsingtao! Thank you dear one so so much, I gave Mrs. Law a nice ¼ - I am so glad to have

it to share with her - all the good things she saves for us + if we don't watch she won't eat them at all! Sixth sister-in-law came in this a.m. with two apples she'd brought out from Saigon + gave her a piece of it. We'd enjoyed it very much! Thanks. Earl's probably reached him long ago + was just as glad.

Its nearly dark + I must write a note to folks in Saigon. They want me to go in for some decisions but if so they must come by car for me + bring me back.

Bye dearest, may the Master keep you all in His love + fulfill His will in each of you. Any word from Wheaton for the boys? If not I hope they will be soon.

In haste, dearest one -

Lovingly,
Irene

Mrs. Law sends her love + thanks again for the Bible!

6 Tsi Yang Road

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION
TSINGTAO, CHINA

March 9, 1938

Dear Friends of the Baker Presbyterisl:

This letter is addressed from Tsingtao, but I am writing from my "Chinese Bethany", my Chinese home in the villages, where I came the last of November and have been ever since, here and in various nearby villages. Mail is somewhat uncertain but I hope that this reaches you to quiet any fears you may have had for me. I am thinking that you may be having a Spring meeting and I would like to have a message of greeting there for each society and a word of appreciation for each one of you for your sacrifices that are helping me to be here.

From the first of the war, it has been my prayer to do my bit for China by continuing witnessing in the villages, for Jesus Christ, only, can keep up the morale for either victory or defeat; and if China ever needed Christ she does now. After a month in Kaomi county, we were called back to Tsingtao, as the Station folks feared that the trains would be stopped, and that we would be left out without our winter clothes. When we did reach the station trains were already uncertain, but after waiting three days in an inn, we got back in on a refugee train. That got us back to Tsingtao for Thanksgiving, where I had an American Thanks giving with American friends, tho very simple in the face of all of the suffering, and a tea at the American Consulate, in the afternoon. There seemed promise of trouble in Tsingtao and I had no desire to be caught in Tsingtao, so we packed winter things, hoping to get off to the villages in spite of the trains being irregular and crowded.

For several days the six-o'clock evening train did not accept baggage and people could hardly get on. We packed, however, and at noon The Master's clear guidance came to Paul Fan (of whom the last report told) who was with us at the time, to go the Railway Sation. There he found that there were one-o'clock and three-o'clock trains that afternoon! We hurried off and not only we all got on, but we got on all of baggage, including my folding organ. In less than an hour not another person or bundle could get on. There was no train at six and but for His Clear Leading we would have missed the train. We got settled in Miss Fan's west courtyard where we have had most comfortable headquarters and from here we have gone out to the other churches.

I feel it one of the greatest priviliges of my time in China to have been out to go thru these tense times with the Christians. You see I have missed all that you have read of Tsingtao's troubles. We have been kept safe thru many possibilities of danger and have been well and happy. I have seen the Christian's faith grow during the troubles and I, myself, have learned to know the Saviour in a new way. It has not been possible to return to Tsingtao nor do I intend to go for sometime.

I wish you could have been with us at one of the Kaomi villages. We were loathe to leave for there was a wonderful hunger and a promising opening among the crowds of non-Christians in this village, where we were once before eight years before. The numbers that came to the house

in the daytime and filled a big open space on the streets at night, showed more than mere curiosity. The amazing number of elderly men, who usually stay on the warm k'angs(beds) after sundown, but who came to stand on the street on the chilly November evenings, was typical of a spirit we have found in other places. In the face of war and death-- What? I felt it was a tremendous privilege to be able to stand there, in the light of our trusty lantern, to give them the Saviour's answer to the Heart's questions! After a time with the few nominal Christions, in which they took a further step in knowing Christ, as Saviour, we felt that we dare not wait- but I never left a place more reluctantly! Please pray for Fang Ling.

We spent Christmas with a group to the north. It was just as the mills were burning in Tsingtao and the big road thru the village was filled with fleeing people- on carts, wheelbarrows, in cars, in rickshas, and on foot- all going to various village homes in the bitter cold. O! the suffering and heartache- children lost and frozen in the flight! The group had a meal together in peace but underneath there was the continual heartache for all of the sorrows and sufferings of the world , that people continually reject Christ's offer of Love and bring war and turmoil on themselves.

Besides the regular work this year , I have had a new class. All of the High Schools are closed so I have had several students in English It has been a great refreshment for me to read the English Bible with them.

In a few days we are off again for an absolutely new village. Mobs will come to see their first foreigner and there will be the great physical strain of being all three rings of the circus! --but this will be overcome by the rare opportunity of being able to tell many , who for all of these years have not heard once, of Jesus/. Could one desire a higher honor than to tell of the Cross, its Love for the first time?

1939 is furlough year. It will be here before we realize it. I hope that then I will have the opportunity to know you all. Thank you for your prayers for us, Please do not forget. We need them.

"To talk with God no breath is lost! Talk on!
To walk with God no strength is lost! Walk on!
To wait on God no time is lost! Wait on!"

Sincerely, Your Representative for China,

Irene Forsythe

P.S. Please forgive the mistakes. Paul Yan who is just learning typed it for me.